

REMARKS

Claims 14-26 are pending in the application.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification, and claims from the literal translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice. An abstract has also been added to the specification.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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* For Examiner Reference

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 13: Cancelled

14. (New) A steering mechanism comprising:

a housing (1, 40);

a rack (11) which defines an axial direction and meshes with a pinion (13), and

a hydraulic servo-drive having a piston/cylinder unit comprising a cylinder, a piston (6) and a piston rod (4) that extends in said axial direction, wherein said rack (11) is coupled to said cylinder or said piston rod (4) and wherein said rack (11) and said piston rod (4) are parallel to one another in said axial direction and are spaced from one another in a direction transverse to said axial direction.

15. (New) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein said rack (11) is fixedly connected with said piston rod (4) in said axial direction.

16. (New) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein said cylinder is connected to said housing (1).

17. (New) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein said cylinder carries a rotary slide valve (30).

18. (New) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein free ends of said rack (11) are encased by sleeves (47) that enclose and outwardly seal a movement space of said rack.

19. (New) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein free ends of said rack (11) are encased by sliding sleeves or bellows (23) that are adapted to free a space that is

disposed axially adjacent to said rack.

20. (New) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein a modular rotary slide valve (30) is eccentrically secured to a frame that carries said steering mechanism.

21. (New) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein said rack (11) is fixedly connected to said cylinder in said axial direction.

22. (New) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, which is provided for a vehicle, and wherein said piston rod (4) is mounted so as to be substantially unmovable relative to the vehicle.

23. (New) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein a center take-off for tie rods that are to be actuated by said steering mechanism is secured directly to said cylinder.

24. (New) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, which includes means for supplying hydraulic fluid to end faces of said piston rod (4) for actuating said servo-drive.

25. (New) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, which includes a guide rod (51), and wherein said guide rod, said rack (11), and said piston rod (4) are parallel to and axially spaced from one another.

26. (New) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein tie rods (22) are articulated to end faces of said piston rod (4).